

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 CU-02 OMB-01
DHA-02 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01 NEA-10 /088 W
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R 121435Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2987
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0486

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, UR
SUBJECT: MORE EXPLOSIONS IN MOSCOW

REF: MOSCOW 0416 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE NOW HEARD FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT SOURCES THAT
ASIDE FROM THE EXPLOSION IN THE MOSCOW METRO--WHICH OUR
SOURCES NOW AGREE WAS DEFINITELY A BOMB--THERE HAVE BEEN
AT LEAST TWO OTHER RECENT EXPLOSIONS IN OBSCOW. THERE
IS GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG OUR SOURCES THAT A SECOND
EXPLOSION, ALSO OF A BOMB, TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY, JAN 8,
OPPOSITE THE VISITORS ENTRANCE TO THE KGB HEADQUARTERS ON
KUZNETSKIY MOST (WE UNDERSTAND NO SIGNS OF DAMAGE ARE NOW
IN EVIDENCE THERE). THERE IS NO AGREEMENT ON THE SITE
OF THE THIRD EXPLOSION WHICH ALSO IS REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN
PLACE ON JAN 8.

2. A WESTERN JOURNALIST TOLD US THAT HE HAD ASKED THE
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE METRO
EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION. THE
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PROSECUTOR TOLD HIM THAT THE CASE HAD BEEN TURNED OVER
TO THE KGB. THE JOURNALIST ASSUMES THAT THIS ADMISSION
IS PROOF THAT THE METRO INCIDENT INVOLVED A BOMB.
EMBOFF, RIDING ON JAN 11 THE METRO LINE ON WHICH THE
EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE, OBSERVED NO SIGNS OF DAMAGE TO
THE PERMANENT WAY OR TO OTHER METRO INSTALLATIONS. THE
TRAINS DID OBSERVE AN ABNORMAL AND UNUSUAL SPEED RE-

STRICTION AT THAT POINT BETWEEN THE TWO STATIONS WHERE THE EXPLOSION IS SAID TO HAVE OCCURRED. THE ONLY OTHER UNUSUAL FEATURE OBSERVED WAS A SINGLE CAR PARKED ON A SIDING AT THE GARAGE FOR THE LINE'S TRAINS. ALTHOUGH IT WAS HARD TO SEE AND A LONG DISTANCE AWAY, THE CAR SEEMED TO HAVE HAD ALL ITS WINDOWS REMOVED. IT IS IN ANY CASE UNUSUAL FOR A SINGLE CAR TO BE PARKED WHERE THIS ONE WAS.

3. OUR SOVIET SOURCES (ALL UNOFFICIAL) WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EXPLOSION NOW SEEM CONVINCED THAT THEY REPRESENT A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS CHALLENGE FOR THE AUTHORITIES AND FOR THE NON-VIOLENT DISSIDENT MOVEMENT. TWO SEPARATE SOVIET SOURCES COMMENTED THAT THE VIKTOR LOUIS ARTICLE (ABOUT WHICH THEY HAD HEARD FROM FOREIGN BROADCASTS) REMINDED THEM OF THE PROPAGANDA CONNECTED WITH THE PURGE TRIALS OF THE 1930'S. WHILE BOTH SOURCES OBSERVED THAT THEY DID NOT EXPECT ANYTHING LIKE THE PURGES TO OCCUR NOW, THEY DID FEEL THAT THE EXPLOSIONS WOULD CAUSE THE AUTHORITIES TO CRACK DOWN ON ALL FORMS OF DISSIDENCE. ONE NOTED THAT THE BOMB AT KGB HEADQUARTERS WAS A PARTICULARLY IMPUDENT CHALLENGE TO THE SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT.

4. THERE IS NO CONSENSUS AMONG OUR SOURCES AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THE PERPETRATORS OF THE BLASTS. SEVERAL HAVE MENTIONED GEORGIAN TERRORISTS AS A LIKELY POSSIBILITY. HOWEVER NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY THE GEORGIANS

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SHOULD HAVE DECIDED THAT THIS WAS A GOOD MOMENT TO COME TO MOSCOW. THEY ALSO CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY, IF IT WERE THE GEORGIANS, THEY HAVE NOT INFORMED WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS. IN FACT, THE CHOICE OF THE GEORGIANS AS CANDIDATES RESULTS MORE FROM THEIR GENERAL REPUTATION FOR VIOLENCE AND THE FACT OF THE SERIES OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS LAST YEAR THAN FROM ANY HARD EVIDENCE. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH SEVERAL DISSIDENT SOURCES AND ALL DENY ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE EXPLOSIONS. THEY ALL ARE CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT THE BLASTS WERE NOT SET OFF BY THE AUTHORITIES THEMSELVES TO SERVE AS PRETEXT TO REPRESS SEVERELY THE DISSIDENTS.

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